



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dennis Yates, AQMD Governing Board Member, LGSBA Chairman
Greg Adams, L.A. County Sanitation District
Paul Avila, P.B.A. & Associates
Geoffrey Blake, Metal Finishers of Southern California/All Metals
Eric Busch, Representative, South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Daniel Cunningham, Metal Finishing Association
Jacob Haik, Office of School Board Member Richard Vladovic
Maria Elena Kennedy, Kennedy Communications
Art Montez, AMA International
Kelly Moulton, Paralegal
Steve Mugg, South Orange County Representative, City of Mission Viejo

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ronald Loveridge, AQMD Governing Board Member, LGSBA Vice Chairman
Felipe Aguirre, Vice Mayor, City of Maywood
Todd Campbell, Clean Energy
James R. Krausz, Esq., ALA Inland Counties
Angelo Logan, East Yard Communities for EJ
Todd Priest, Representative, Orange County Business Council

OTHERS PRESENT:

Earl Elrod, Board Member Assistant (*Yates*)
Nicole Nishimura, Board Member Assistant (*Lyou*)

AQMD STAFF:

Alan Caldwell, Community Relations Manager
Philip Crabbe III, Community Relations Manager
Deanna Doerr, Office Assistant
Anupom Ganguli, Ph.D., Assistant Deputy Executive Officer/Public Advisor
Lori Langrell, Secretary
Mary Leonard, Financial Analyst
Fred Lettice, Sr. AQ Engineering Manager
John Olvera, Principal Deputy District Counsel
Rick Pearce, Chief Financial Officer
Robert Pease, Program Supervisor
Henry Pourzand, AQ Specialist
Greg Ushijima, AQ Engineer II
Daniel Wong, Office Assistant

Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Chair Dennis Yates called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of April 10, 2009 Meeting Minutes/Review of Follow-Up/Action Items

Chair Yates called for approval of the meeting minutes.

The April 10, 2009 meeting minutes were approved.

Action item: Members to be notified with regard to the Board of Supervisors meeting.

- ✓ Members were notified by phone and/or email regarding the Board of Supervisors Meeting.

Agenda Item #3 – FY 2009-10 Draft Budget and Work Program

Ms. Mary Leonard presented an overview of the FY 2009-10 Draft Budget and Work Program.

Mr. Art Montez asked how many full time employees the AQMD currently has. Ms. Leonard replied that there are currently 839 funded, full time employees. Mr. Montez then asked what will happen when funds are depleted and costs rise. Chair Yates replied that medical and retirement costs are huge factors that are impacting not only the District, but other agencies and that it continues to be a work in progress.

Mr. Greg Adams inquired what changes resulted from the permit streamlining task force. Mr. Rick Pearce responded that 3 journey level engineer positions will be removed and 2 senior level engineer positions added to assist in reviewing permit applications. Mr. Adams then asked if the District would look at pension obligation bonds in the future. Mr. Pearce stated that the bonds would not be considered at this time as bonds are currently risky.

Mr. Paul Avila asked about the reasoning behind having a senior person in permitting. Mr. Pearce replied that the senior engineers can review permit applications and approve permits.

Mr. Dan Cunningham inquired if programs would be cut due to flat revenue and program costs going up. Mr. Pearce indicated that over the next two years the agency will be looking at restructuring. He added that currently, 30% of staff are at retirement age and that the District will look at how to be more efficient with less employees.

Agenda Item #4 – Regulation III – Fees Proposed Amendments

Mr. Robert Pease gave a presentation on the 2009 proposed amendments to Regulation III – Fees.

Mr. Montez asked if staff have the permit application forms available online for the public's use. Mr. Pearce replied that application forms are available for the most common equipment online. He added that the Public Advisor and Small Business Assistance Office is available to assist small businesses. Mr. Fred Lettice added that the District is available to meet with companies before the applications are submitted to answer any questions that may come up. Mr. Montez also asked if businesses can get answers online or by telephone as opposed to making a lengthy trip to Diamond Bar. Mr. Lettice replied that businesses are able to have their questions answered by telephone.

Ms. Kelly Moulton posed a question regarding the appeal of fees or cost recovery proposals, does the person who is making the appeal pay for same. Mr. Pearce indicated that the appeal does not refer to a cost, but to a decision by the Executive Officer.

Mr. Greg Adams asked if staff are sure that the Hollingsworth bill (SB 554) which could impact AQMD's ability to regulate emissions from wood burning fireplaces, was going to fail passage in the legislature. Dr. Ganguli replied that the bill did not pass out of committee.

Agenda Item #5 – Status Update on Implementation of AQMD Governing Board's "Helping Hand" Initiative

This item will be placed on the agenda for the June 12, 2009 meeting.

Agenda Item #6 – Monthly Report on Small Business Assistance Activities

No comments.

Agenda Item #7 – Update on Climate Change Activities (Written Report)

Ms. Whynot provided a written report update on climate change activities.

Agenda Item #8 - Other Business

Mr. Eric Busch asked if there were any updates regarding the permit moratorium. Dr. Ganguli replied that the District is helping sponsor a bill, SB 696. He added that the bill is currently being referred to two policy committees and that staff have received over 100 letters in support of SB 696. Mr. Busch asked about the timing of the legislative process with respect to SB696. Dr. Ganguli replied that an urgency clause is included within the legislation and the bill will be effective immediately, when passed.

Mr. Adams asked if the list of supporters had been recently updated as his company had sent in a support letter. Dr. Ganguli stated the list had recently been updated, and referred group members to a SB 696 website that is not hosted by the AQMD, www.yesonsb696.com.

Mr. Montez asked if there was a different process available for small businesses to obtain permits for small gas generators. Chair Yates replied that there are no other alternatives to obtain your permit other than purchasing emission reduction credits on the open market.

Mr. Daniel Cunningham asked about the HEPA filter requirements in Rule 1469, as businesses cannot comply since they cannot get permits. Dr. Ganguli advised that compliance with the rule cannot be achieved because the permits for the equipment cannot be issued.

Mr. Eric Busch asked if the District is still processing permit applications, or holding them to issue later, which may cause a backlog. Dr. Ganguli replied that the District is processing the applications, but not issuing the permits due to the moratorium.

Agenda Item #9 - Public Comment

Ms. Rita Loof indicated that she was seeking information regarding Rule 317 and the HEPA filter requirements. Dr. Ganguli indicated that the appropriate staff to respond to her inquiries were not present at the meeting. Dr. Ganguli offered to have staff follow-up with Ms. Loof regarding her specific inquiries.

Action item: Staff to follow up with Rita Loof regarding her informational inquiries.

Agenda Item #10 - Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.